



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

19 April 1965

Mr. R. W. van de Velde, Faculty Secretary
Rockefeller Public Service Awards
Woodrow Wilson Hall, Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Mr. van de Velde:

I welcome the opportunity of nominating Mr. Richard M. Helms, at present Deputy Director for Plans, Central Intelligence Agency, for the Rockefeller Public Service Award in the field of Foreign Affairs-International Operations. The President announced on 10 April 1965 Mr. Helms' selection as the next Deputy Director of Central Intelligence.

Mr. Helms is the senior foreign intelligence operations officer of the United States. His outstanding leadership in the foreign intelligence activities of our country and his contributions to our national security merit public recognition. I am sure that the Committee on Selection understands that the security considerations surrounding many of Mr. Helms' accomplishments limit my freedom in substantiating them in the enclosed document which is forwarded for the Committee's review. Because of this limitation, I have asked [redacted] and he has agreed, to brief the Committee on the activities in which Mr. Helms and his Plans Directorate are engaged. I hope this will meet with the approval of the Committee.

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I wish to express my appreciation for the continued efforts of Princeton University to promote good government by recognizing and encouraging distinguished public service.

Sincerely,

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[redacted]
John A. McCone
Director

Enclosure

NOMINATION OF MR. RICHARD HELMS

Helms, Richard McGarrah -- Deputy Director for Plans
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Grade: GS-18

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Residence:

Date and Place of Birth: March 1913, St. Davids, Penn.

Length of Government Service: 23 years

Education: 1929-31 LeRosey, Rolle, Switzerland;
Realgymnasium, Freiburg, Germany
1931-35 Williams College, Williamstown,
Mass. -BA; Member of Phi Beta Kappa
1942 Naval Training School
Harvard University

Mr. Helms has been with the Central Intelligence Agency in the field of intelligence operations since the Agency's creation after World War II. He began his career in intelligence work as a naval officer with the Office of Strategic Services, a predecessor organization of CIA. A brilliant wartime record was followed by outstanding performance as an expert in Eastern European affairs which resulted in his appointment in 1951 as CIA Chief of Operations. He has served as Deputy Director for Plans since 1962.

SUMMARY STATEMENT

During his eminent career in the Central Intelligence Agency and its predecessor organizations, Mr. Helms has long played a key role in the field of foreign intelligence operations. In his unique position as Deputy Director for Plans, he bears the responsibility for virtually the entire range of the Agency's programs abroad. As guardian of these operations he is also responsible for the counter-intelligence measures necessary to prevent opposition elements from damaging our efforts. His work is of critical importance to the security of the United States and to the success of foreign policy objectives of concern to this Nation and its allies. Mr. Helms combines the best characteristics of a strong leader skilled in the complex arts of foreign intelligence operations, an able administrator, and a dedicated career officer devoted to the public service.

1965 ROCKEFELLER PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS

NOMINATION OF MR. RICHARD HELMS

Mr. Richard Helms is the senior foreign intelligence operations officer of the United States. As Deputy Director for Plans, Central Intelligence Agency, he has unique responsibility for virtually the entire range of the Agency's overseas operational activities. In this capacity, he has made major contributions to the formulation of United States foreign policy and to the protection of the national security.

Mr. Helms' career in public service has been one of steady advancement and continuing achievements in activities of the highest importance for the furtherance of our country's foreign policy objectives. He has served on the "frontiers of our foreign policy" for a period of twenty-three years and has been directly involved in many critical actions which have had a great impact on the conduct of the United States' foreign relations.

Born in 1913, Mr. Helms was early in life exposed to the international scene as he received his secondary schooling in Switzerland and Germany. Following graduation from Williams in 1935, he entered the publishing field serving as correspondent for United Press Association in Berlin until 1937, and as national advertising manager for the Indianapolis Times Publishing Company until 1942. Entering the Navy in 1942, Mr. Helms was assigned to duty with the Office of Strategic Services and has served United States intelligence continuously since then. During World War II, his intimate knowledge of Europe led to assignments dealing with OSS plans and operations in the European Theatre and ultimately to his appointment as Commanding Officer of the OSS Berlin Detachment. ~~OSS Director Major General William Donovan recognized the excellence of Mr. Helms' wartime services by awarding him the Legion of Merit.~~

In the difficult atmosphere of intelligence reorganization during the post-war period, Mr. Helms was given the task of creating in the Central Intelligence Agency an intelligence capability competent to deal with Eastern Europe and, in particular, establishing relationships with the intelligence elements of nations with which the United States had compatible interests. The organization and relationships developed under Mr. Helms clear-thinking leadership have served the United States well since that time and attest to his abilities to bring order and stability to a situation then noted for its turmoil and confusion. Mr. Helms' success in discharging these weighty responsibilities resulted in his appointment

in 1951 as Chief of Operations for that portion of the Agency charged with global collection missions. In 1953, by the merger of several elements of the Agency, Mr. Helms' responsibilities as Chief of Operations were greatly multiplied and expanded. Confidence that Mr. Helms possessed the ability to accept greater responsibility and increased authority was indeed well founded as he again rose to the challenge of greatly broadened functions. These he discharged with high success and with an incisive manner that served as both a stimulant and an example to his associates. His work during this period showed a profound awareness of the role of international intelligence in the shaping of Government policy and the conduct of foreign affairs. Ever sensitive to the importance of providing timely support to the decision-making process, Mr. Helms devoted his keen intellect toward this end with such professional excellence that in 1962, he was named Deputy Director for Plans with responsibility for the development of operational policy and the direction of Agency activities overseas.

For a number of reasons, the position of Deputy Director for Plans of this Agency is a post unique in the organizational structure of the United States Government. It not only calls for the exercise of the soundest judgment in directing overseas collection operations, but it demands an enlightened understanding of the measures used by ruthless foes to undermine the security and reputation of the United States Government. Responsibility for our counter-intelligence function -- the prevention or revelation of covert operations abroad targeted against United States intelligence organizations and personalities -- is another of the tasks inherent in Mr. Helms' position. Mr. Helms' testimony on this subject presented before the Senate Subcommittee to Investigate the Administration of the Internal Security Laws is recognized as the definitive review on the subject of fraudulent propaganda, forgeries, and fabricated documents. His testimony revealed the manner in which falsified documents are fabricated by Communist instrumentalities for the purpose of discrediting the United States and its friends, sowing suspicion among Western Allies, and driving a wedge between the peoples of non-Communist countries and their governments. For his presentation, Mr. Helms received the approbation of the Senate Subcommittee. Under the title of "Communist Forgeries," his testimony was published by resolution of the Committee on the Judiciary. The value of this work is of such significance that it has been translated into Arabic, French, Spanish, German, and Italian as a means of instructing others on the fraudulent practices of the opposition.

Overseas intelligence collection operations conducted by representatives of the CIA under Mr. Helms supervision and responsibility have made strategically significant contributions to our Government's information

concerning the nature, the capabilities and the intentions of our adversaries. Conduct of these operations has required operational and political sophistication and sensitivity. The results have included critically important scientific and military information and strategic political and economic intelligence. The information thus acquired has had a direct bearing on the formulation of Government policy and the development of national defense techniques and hardware. It can be said without exaggeration that this civil servant has devoted and continues to devote his total energies to planning and carrying out a wide variety of successful programs and operations designed to protect the security and other vital interests of this country and of the free world -- interests which are under constant subversive attack in every quarter of the globe.

Mr. Helms has not limited his interest or efforts to operational services, but has shown an unusual interest in matters of Agency administration, the development of an Agency-wide career service system and the training of personnel in general and specialized fields. As a deputy director, he is advisor to the Director of Central Intelligence and wields a strong influence upon all aspects of CIA activity. He is respected by his associates in the intelligence community and his subordinates alike. Mr. Helms has come to be known in the senior echelons of our Government community as our top professional foreign intelligence officer. In every respect he personifies the best product of an American intelligence effort. He has attracted to his service individuals of outstanding competence and merit. He has done this by setting an almost unique example of selflessness and total commitment to the public service in an area of activity which is probably the most difficult of all. To honor him will be to honor the many professional intelligence officers of our Government who are inspired by his example.

The nomination of Mr. Helms for the Rockefeller Public Service Award in the field of Foreign Affairs or International Operations is based on his contributions to the security of our country and his effective leadership in the development of a career civilian foreign intelligence service which is credited with accomplishments of great significance in the conduct of the United States' foreign relations. Based on his outstanding achievements during his unusual, if not unprecedented, career in Government, there is every reason to believe that his contributions to our Nation will increase in value and importance as the years unfold. Our nomination of Mr. Helms for this honor is intended to help the public realize the importance of the role which he and others who serve in intelligence operations play in maintaining the vigor and efficiency of the Government of the United States -- careers worthy of the best efforts of our most capable young men and women in this country.

REFERENCES: Mr. Richard M. Helms
Central Intelligence Agency

Persons well acquainted with Mr. Helms' work and to whom inquiry
may be addressed by the Committee on Selection:

Mr. Allen W. Dulles

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Mr. Gordon Gray

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The Honorable Charles E. Bohlen
American Ambassador
Paris, France

Mr. John Gardner
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589 5th Avenue
New York, N. Y.